

## Andrew Jackson to Samuel Houston, December 15, 1826, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SAM HOUSTON.

Private

Hermitage, December 15, 1826.

*D'r Genl*, The business of my little ward (Hutchings) drew me to Alabama shortly after you left me from whence I have Just returned. The Legislature of Alabama has chosen Mr John M[c]Kinley their Senator. James Jackson, Colo. N. Davis, Judge Clay, and Doctor Moore, names were before the people as candidates with Mr McKinley—finding Judge Clay the Strongest of the coalition, Jackson, Davis and Moore united upon Judge Clay against McKinley, and were defeated by three votes—however it is said Judge Clay came forth publickly against the administration, but my friends it appears, had not as much confidence in his avowals, as they had in McK. you will therefore infer that Major McKinly has been elected by my political friends, and I hope he may notice their expectations. The major will be with you shortly, and you can soon Judge whether the confidence of the people is well founded or not. Clay will endeavour to wield him to his views, but I cannot believe he will succeed.

As far as I could Judge from the voice of the people as I passed through Tennessee your popularity is Daily increasing, but you will have to return early in the spring and pass through the state. We are now looking to the city for the President communication to Congress which will afford the type holders some employment, and develope to the Nation its political prosperity and situation, and give us a clear view of the panama Congress, as

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I see Mr. Seargeant<sup>1</sup> has Just *sailed before the meeting of Congress*: the necessity of this movement, must have been as urgent, as the cause of accepting the invitation to be represented there, a few days before the meeting of last Congress.

1 John Sergeant of Philadelphia, sent by Adams to the adjourned session (at Tacubaya) of the Panama Congress.

I am anxiously awaiting a letter from you, after your arival at the city, and having seen our friends of Fredrickburge va., and presented my note to Mr Southerd. I am determined to unmask such part of the Executive council, as has entered into the combination to slander and revile me; and I trust, in due time to effect it, and lay the perfidy, meanness, and wickedness, of Clay, naked before the american people. I have lately got an intimation of some of his secrete movements, which, if I can reach with possitive and responsible proof, I will wield to his political, and perhaps, to his actual destruction. he is certainly the bases[t], meanest, scoundrel, that ever disgraced the image of his god—nothing too mean or low for him to condescend to, *secretely* to carry his cowardly and base purpose of slander into effect; even the aged and virtuous female, is not free from his secrete combination of base slander—but *anough, you know me* , I will curb my feelings until it becomes proper to act, when retributive *Justice will vissit him and his panders heads* .

Since my return from Alabama I have recd a letter from my friend J. S. Barber<sup>2</sup> accompanied with his speech on Mr McDuffies proposed amendment to the constitution. present him my respects and thanks for this letter and pamphlet, it has afforded me much satisfaction and the speech is fraught with much sound construction of our constitution, and real republican doctrine. When leisure occurs I will write him. present me to all my Tennessee friends and all members who inquire for me to Judge White and Branch of the senate.

2 John S. Barbour of Virginia, M. C. 1823–1833.

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When I wrote you last I made a request of you for Mr Donelson—he has wrote you himself; if Mr Randolph has returned, and you should think it right, present him my compliments as an admirer of his independence and virtue, not as a flatterer. yr friend